News Gathering (ENG) units a Jeypore, Baripada and Phulbani has been received by Doordarshan from the Government of Orissa in the recent past.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Losses to DD during Athen's Olympics

1089. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan had to bear the loss of crores in Athen's Olympics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had not assessed the losses before the Olympics; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati spent a sum of approximate Rs. 20.86 crores for acquiring the rights of Athens Olympic Games - 2004 and arranging its telecast over various DD channels. The total revenue generated by sale of commercial airtime was Rs. 8 crores (approx.).

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati (BCI) Act, 1990 has mandated Prasar Bharati to provide adequate coverage to sports and games so as to encourage healthy competition in the spirit of sportsmanship. In view of this, Prasar Bharati felt obligated to show the Olympic Games to the people of India even if the revenue generated were to fall short of costs incurred. It may please be noted that this has been the case with every Olympics covered by DD and AIR so far. Indeed the revenue generated during Athens Olympics is the highest ever by DD and AIR. During the last Olympics at Sydney, the revenue generation was only Rs. 1 crore.

CAS in Metropolitan

†1090. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the metropolitan cities where 'CAS' is in force;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.